

Application No. 09/994,492
Amendment dated February 7, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of November 19, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] Less invasive, i.e., non-open procedures for replacing all or a portion of a joint have a shorter recovery time relative to open procedures, and, therefore, are favored. With respect to a total hip arthroplasty, an instrument allowing the ligamentum teres femoris to be severed while the femoral head is positioned in the acetabulum would facilitate performance of a joint replacement in a non-open procedure, since the femoral head would not need to be dislocated from the acetabulum to sever the ligamentum teres femoris. A minimally invasive total hip arthroplasty is disclosed in U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 09/558,044~~ No. 6,676,706, issued January 13, 2004, assigned to the assignee of the present invention, the disclosure of which is hereby explicitly incorporated by reference.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] Joint spacers 20 have a thickness, whereby joint spacers 20 are operable to extend the joint spacing between the femoral head and the acetabulum of a hip joint and thereby tension the ligamentum teres femoris to facilitate severing thereof. Typically, joint spacers 20 have a thickness greater than the thickness of ~~head 13~~ head 14 of ligamentum teres femoris cutter 10. In one exemplary embodiment, joint spacers 20 have a thickness of about 31.25 millimeters (0.125 inches). Furthermore, joint spacers 20 may be offset from head 14 of ligamentum teres femoris cutter 10 so that joint spacers 20 cooperate with head 14 to extend the joint spacing between the femoral head and the acetabulum of a hip joint.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] While this invention has been described as having a preferred design, the present invention can be further modified within the spirit and scope of this disclosure. This application is therefore intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention using its

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general principles. Further, this application is intended to cover such departures from the present disclosure as come within ~~new~~ known or customary practice in the art to which this invention pertains and which fall within the limits of the appended claims.